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CLASSIFICATION	SECRET	
COUNTRY	Soviet Zone of Germany	25X1 REPORT NO. 25X1
TOPIC	Dessau Airfield	
EVALUATION	25X1	PLACE OBTAINED 25X1
DATE OF CONTENT	Late March to late April 1950	
DATE OBTAINED	25X1	DATE PREPARED 29 May 1950
REFERENCES		
PAGES	3	ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE)
REMARKS		

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1.

A German recently employed at the Dessau (M 52/E 06) airfield said that 30 jet fighters, 50 conventional fighters and about 1,500 Soviet Air Force troops were stationed at the field in late March 1950 (1).

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2.

The field was observed between 8 a.m. and 4 p.m. on 27 April 1950. It became overcast and rained later. About 40 jet fighters and 20 conventional fighters were parked at the field. The jet planes practiced flying between 10 and 11:30 a.m. They were refueled from four or five tank trucks on the southern edge of the field and were then towed to the western end of the runway by four-wheel tractors. Trucks, apparently not equipped with generators for starting aircraft, were permanently parked south of the take-off point. There was a sudden noise from the planes and light smoke emerged from the air exhaust. (4). The aircraft taxied to the runway without the use of ground equipment and then took off. (2).

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3.

Twenty-two jet fighters took off from the airfield on 20 April 1950, one close behind the other, in rainy weather. They practiced formation flying, then landed individually at intervals of about 500 meters.

4.

There was no flying between 21 and 23 April 1950 due to bad weather. Twenty-two jet fighters, about twenty single-engine fighters and two biplanes were seen at the field.

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5. Four jet fighters, apparently an alerted unit, were parked near the flight control station on the southern edge of the field on 25 April 1950 (5). They were ready to take off with a pneumatic starter. (4). [redacted]
- 25X1 [redacted]
- 25X1 [redacted]
- 25X1 [redacted] The conventional fighters and at least 20 jet fighters, covered with tarpaulins, were parked in the aircraft revetments on the eastern edge of the field. [redacted]
- 25X1 [redacted]
- 25X1 [redacted]
6. There was no flying at the field on 30 April 1950. The following aircraft were parked there: 18 swept-back wing fighters and 17 conventional fighters, all covered with tarpaulins, 3 gray jet fighters with straight wings, two biplanes, 8 swept-back wing jet fighters and 9 conventional fighters, the latter two groups ready to take off.
- (1) [redacted] Comment: All three [redacted] agree on the occupation of the airfield by jet aircraft and conventional fighters. This was also confirmed [redacted] A fighter regiment is assumed to be stationed in Dessau. Is the number of conventional fighters apparently has been recently reduced it is assumed that some of them were shipped away.
- 25X1 [redacted]
- 25X1 [redacted]
- 25X1 [redacted]
- (2) [redacted] Comment: [redacted]
- 25X1 [redacted]
- 25X1 [redacted]
- 25X1 [redacted] The following features however are noteworthy: The aircraft have the air intake covered with a red lid, nose wheel retracting rearward, entrance into pilot's seat from the left side by a ladder, fuel inlet on upper side of fuselage in about the middle between leading and trailing edges of wings [redacted]
- 25X1 [redacted]
- 25X1 [redacted]

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(4) Comment: From the information on the starting of jet aircraft it can be concluded that the planes are started in two different ways: Either by a pneumatic starter or by a starter fitted inside the plane.

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(5) Comment: Noteworthy is the information that a number of jet aircraft apparently were permanently ready to take off in case of alert as observed at the Zerbst airfield. It is not known whether such alerted units are at all airfields occupied by fighters.

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